

June 4-6 2009 - Trip Prep Inspection---or-- How I finally got to see Savannah

While I helped to build my Highlander, Light Sport Aircraft, and took the FAA's LSA Repairman's Course (with a score of 92 on its written test,) I felt that I was not fully qualified to do a comprehensive annual "condition inspection" on my airplane. With almost 175 hours of engine time and a big trip to the Western USA mountain states in the works, I thought it might be wise to ask for help in this FAA mandated preventive maintenance inspection. A few months ago, while attending a meeting of our local EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) chapter I met a Swaid Rahn, who flew over in a Cessna 182 Skylane. I found out that he has a 3,000 foot grass strip with a full maintenance hanger, just a bit north of Savannah Ga. It is a 35 mile direct flight from Hilton Head, or a 55 mile drive on circumventis roads. I decided to bring my plane over to Indigo Aviation in its trailer so that I could base out of a local campground with my motor home. It turned out to be a valuable learning experience during the two days that I spent working alongside Swaid. While I have performed the more routine tasks of checking for loose or missing screws and bolts, changing out the oil and its filter, replacing the fuel filter, and tightening of the tailwheel bracket, I have never performed some of the more "advanced" inspection techniques. Under Swaid's tutelage, I learned how to properly torque cylinder heads bolts replace spark plugs, repack wheel bearings check and how to adjust the propeller's pitch setting. I also learned that a proper inspection **MUST** be performed with a high intensity flashlight in one hand, and a wand mirror in the other. So, at the completion of my two days at Indigo Aviation, I felt confident that my plane was in good condition and should perform well during my upcoming trip.

After I did a few post maintenance take-off and landings at Swaid's field on Saturday morning I decided to make the 15 mile drive over to Savannah, GA. for some sight seeing. Although it turned out to be a somewhat rainy afternoon, I did get a chance to play tourist in this city located just an hours drive from my home Island. It is a shame that we tend to ignore those special places that are right in our own back yard. When I lived for 40 years in northern New Jersey, just a 20 minute drive to New York City, it was not until my last weekend there that a friend, Steve Demarest (who is my web-master for this blog) suggested a trip into the city to see some of its sights. It was the first time that I had gone into Greenwich Village & to the top of the World Trade Center. Then we traveled down to the Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan Island, and



Swaid works as I check the manual



My post inspection check-out flight



Historic downtown River St. shops



Converted Factor Wharf warehouses

went aboard the aircraft carrier Intrepid based at the city's waterfront. It seems that we have a philosophy that if it is in our own backyard it must not be worth seeing, or because it is so close, that we can always get to see it "someday". This is why I haven't been to Savannah for at least a quarter century, and what I have missed! It is a beautiful old city, going back to the early 1700's. Many of its downtown buildings are on the National Historic Register and some have been tastefully converted to upscale hotels and Inns, gourmet restaurants, and quaint shops and boutiques. The Riverwalk, located directly on the Savannah River which separates Georgia from its neighbor state of SC allows one to leisurely stroll its cobblestone's for more than a mile. You can enjoy the never ending train of large seagoing container and freighters and pleasure yachts traveling up and down this scenic river. On this street are the original large warehouses which have now been turned into tourist attractions. These converted warehouses are accessed from the Riverwalk on its East side and from elevated steel bridges and walkways from the West Bay Street side. You can be sure that when I get back from this year's trip that I will return to tour and see more of this beautiful city of Savannah, Georgia.



Bay St.'s steel bridges & walkways



Parks & green spaces are everywhere



Savannah is a city of many "Squares" - The beauty of Live Oaks & Spanish Moss

In this wide shot we can see the cobblestoned River St., its old converted warehouses off the Savannah River & the beautiful pedestrian River Walk with some of its sightseeing tour boats

